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Tokyo Tries To Demonstrate Burdensharing Commitment

Recent calls by allies for Japan to follow through on its $4 billion commitment to the Persian Gulf peacekeeping effort have struck an attentive audience in Tokyo. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu announced September 27 the outlines of Japan's proposed United Nations Peace Cooperation Law, which would enable Tokyo to dispatch nonmilitary personnel to international crises in support of U.N.-sponsored peacekeeping initiatives (see JEI Report No. 38B, October 5, 1990). Coming on the heels of this, a government source leaked to the Japanese press October 1 a plan to introduce legislation that would enable Japan to shoulder more of the costs of maintaining U.S. forces on its soil.

In meetings with American defense policymakers that same week Yukio Okamoto, an official with the Foreign Ministry's North America division, elaborated further on Japan's Middle East-directed aid effort, indicating that approximately $2 billion of the total assistance pledged for logistical support will be used to purchase U.S.-made equipment for the multilateral forces as well as to help defray the costs of transporting American troops and equipment to this war-threatened region. (The other $2 billion is earmarked for helping Turkey, Egypt, Jordan and other frontline Middle East countries that have been hurt economically by the trade embargo against Iraq.)

U.S. Exports to Japan by End-Use Category

(in millions of dollars, f.a.s. value)

	January-June 1989	January-June 1990	Percent Change
Total Exports to Japan	$21,845.3	$23,512.5	7.6%
Food, Feed and Beverages	4,248.7	4,191.3	-1.4
Wheat	220.6	214.8	-2.6
Corn	848.2	835.6	-1.5
Sorghum, Barley and Oats	148.9	161.8	8.7
Other Animal Feeds	156.7	133.2	-15.0
Soybeans	512.2	444.0	-13.3
Meat and Meat Products	839.9	787.0	-6.3
Fish and Fish Products	659.4	736.5	11.7
Fruits and Fruit Products	354.7	325.4	-8.3
Vegetables and Vegetable Products	149.5	154.6	3.4
Nuts and Nut Products	55.7	64.6	16.0
Bakery and Confectionery Products	41.2	37.2	-9.7
Wine	30.1	43.8	45.5
Other Alcoholic Beverages	40.1	66.8	66.6
Industrial Supplies and Materials	7,905.1	7,379.8	-6.6
Raw Cotton	277.3	323.0	16.5
Unmanufactured Tobacco	204.9	169.5	-17.3
Hides and Skins (incl. furskins)	169.3	221.3	30.7
Leather and Fur	40.3	73.1	81.4
Metallurgical-Grade Coal	290.7	236.5	-18.6
Other Coal	201.9	217.5	7.7
Fuel Oil	89.0	72.2	-18.9
Other Petroleum Products	273.7	161.2	-41.1
Natural Gas	72.2	71.7	-0.7
Nuclear Fuel Materials and Fuels	559.9	286.7	-48.8
Logs, Lumber, Plywood and Veneers	1,199.0	1,264.1	5.4
Manufactured Wood Supplies	39.1	50.6	29.4
Paper Base Stocks	490.6	380.8	-22.4
Newsprint and Other Paper Products	250.7	244.8	-2.4
Cotton and Other Natural Fibers, Yarn and Fabric	30.4	24.4	-19.7
Synthetic Fibers, Yarn and Fabric	49.4	54.9	11.1
Synthetic Rubber	26.1	25.1	-3.8
Plastic Materials	222.0	216.6	-2.4
Fertilizers, Pesticides and Insecticides	134.5	136.3	1.3
Industrial Inorganic Chemicals	149.0	125.6	-15.7
Industrial Organic Chemicals	551.8	443.0	-19.7
Iron Ore, Steel Scrap and Ferroalloys	71.2	61.5	-13.6
Steel Slabs, Bars, Wire Rods, Plates and Sheets	105.0	83.0	-2.1
Steel Strip, Wire, Shapes, Pipes, Tubes and Fasteners	88.4	40.5	-54.2
Aluminum	663.2	643.1	-3.0
Copper	197.8	230.2	16.4
Nonmonetary Gold	71.6	15.3	-78.6
Other Precious Metals	65.2	72.8	11.7
Other Nonferrous Metals	153.5	163.0	6.2
Fabricated Metal Products	93.8	88.5	-5.7
Unmanufactured Nonmetallic Minerals	59.0	58.5	-0.8
Manufactured Mineral Supplies	139.9	163.7	17.0
Blank Audio and Video Tapes and Other Media	61.2	77.0	25.8
Capital Goods	5,651.2	6,911.5	22.3
Electric Machinery	350.8	411.5	17.3
Generators, Transformers and Accessories	50.3	93.9	86.7
Other Electric Apparatus and Parts	300.5	317.6	5.7
Nonelectric Machinery	4,612.3	5,038.3	9.2
Excavating, Paving and Construction Machinery	65.0	73.7	13.4
Nonfarm Tractors and Parts	40.6	61.7	52.0
Industrial Engines, Pumps, Compressors and Generators	114.2	151.7	32.8
Food and Tobacco Processing Machinery	40.2	36.4	-9.5
Machine Tools, Metalworking, Molding and Rolling Mill Machinery	134.2	102.6	-23.5
Textile and Sewing Machinery	35.9	35.7	-0.6
Woodworking, Glassmaking and Plastic and Rubber Molding Machinery	28.1	42.4	50.9
Pulp, Paper, Printing and Packaging Machinery	60.9	70.1	15.1
Measuring, Testing and Control Instruments	350.6	295.9	-15.6
Materials Handling Equipment	33.6	43.3	28.9
Photo and Service Industry Machinery	167.2	165.9	-0.8

	January-June 1989	January-June 1990	Percent Change
Agricultural Machinery and Equipment	$37.3	$45.1	20.9%
Computers	557.7	607.7	9.0
Computer Peripherals, Accessories and Parts	894.7	1,096.2	22.5
Semiconductors	543.2	617.3	13.6
Telecommunications Equipment	408.8	494.6	21.0
Other Office and Business Machines	103.6	73.9	-28.7
Scientific, Hospital and Medical Equipment	507.1	540.4	6.6
Transportation Equipment	688.1	1,461.8	112.4
Civilian Aircraft	203.7	846.9	315.8
Parts for Civilian Aircraft	259.1	353.8	36.5
Engines for Civilian Aircraft	166.8	210.4	26.1
Marine Engines and Parts	35.9	33.4	-7.0
Automotive Vehicles, Parts and Engines	535.6	816.8	52.5
Cars	236.4	419.8	77.6
Trucks, Buses and Special Vehicles	45.1	58.5	29.7
Automotive Tires and Tubes	88.3	86.5	-2.0
Automotive Parts and Accessories (incl. engines)	165.6	252.1	52.2
Consumer Goods	2,753.0	3,344.0	21.5
Manufactured Consumer Nondurables	1,174.1	1,320.9	12.5
Textile Apparel, Footwear and Household Goods	82.9	117.6	41.9
Nontextile Apparel, Footwear and Household Goods	52.8	45.9	-13.1
Pharmaceutical Preparations	463.8	424.4	-8.5
Printed Material	61.9	71.5	15.5
Toiletries and Cosmetics	34.4	37.2	8.1
Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Manufactures	390.8	511.1	30.8
Manufactured Consumer Durables	1,458.9	1,871.3	28.3
Furniture	21.9	26.9	22.8
Cookware, Cutlery, House and Garden Wares and Tools	25.9	25.3	-2.3
Household and Kitchen Appliances	40.3	45.0	11.7
Floor Coverings	29.1	25.7	-11.7
Pleasure Boats and Motors	53.9	97.3	80.5
Toys, Sporting Goods, Bicycles and Motorcycles	210.1	245.9	17.0
Musical Instruments and Photographic and Optical Equipment	48.6	46.8	-3.7
Television Sets and Other Video Equipment	36.9	27.0	-26.8
Radios, Stereo Equipment and Other Audio Equipment	29.5	34.8	18.0
Records, Tapes and Disks	95.1	127.3	33.9
Jewelry and Watches	62.6	111.5	78.1
Artwork and Antiques	683.0	924.5	35.4
Unmanufactured Consumer Goods	120.0	151.8	26.5
Gemstones	116.8	147.6	26.4
Other Exports	751.7	869.1	15.6

Source: Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

U.S. Imports from Japan by End-Use Category

(in millions of dollars, Customs value)

	January-June 1989	January-June 1990	Percent Change
Total Imports from Japan	$46,263.6	$43,096.1	-6.8%
Food, Feed and Beverages	165.1	163.1	-1.2
Fish and Fish Products	84.8	79.9	-5.8
Industrial Supplies and Materials	4,312.9	4,224.2	-2.1
Cotton, Wool and Other Natural Fibers	0.0	83.9	100.0
Cotton Fibers, Yarn and Fabric	59.2	58.4	-1.4
Synthetic Fibers, Yarn and Fabric	192.1	159.4	-1.7
Paper and Paper Products	97.4	90.5	-7.1
Plastic Materials	275.6	298.4	8.3
Industrial Inorganic Chemicals	83.5	87.9	5.3
Industrial Organic Chemicals	352.1	310.3	-11.9
Steel Slabs, Bars, Wire Rods, Plates and Sheets	833.0	735.7	-11.7
Steel Strip, Wire, Shapes, Pipes, Tubes and Fasteners	366.5	304.7	-12.9

	January-June 1989	January-June 1990	Percent Change
Fabricated Steel Products	$289.4	$287.2	-0.8%
Fabricated Nonferrous Metal Products	183.3	290.8	58.6
Blank Audio and Video Tapes and Other Media	350.7	329.3	-6.1
Capital Goods	18,392.1	17,089.6	-7.1
Electric Machinery	1,562.9	1,597.7	2.2
Generators, Transformers and Accessories	216.2	222.7	3.0
Other Electric Apparatus and Parts	1,346.7	1,375.0	2.1
Nonelectric Machinery	16,403.6	15,141.2	-7.7
Drilling and Oilfield Equipment	111.0	106.7	-3.9
Specialized Mining and Oil Processing Equipment	254.3	277.3	9.0
Excavating, Paving and Construction Machinery	227.8	276.2	21.2
Nonfarm Tractors and Parts	141.9	146.5	3.2
Industrial Engines, Pumps, Compressors and Generators	603.8	567.5	-6.0
Food and Tobacco Processing Machinery	56.5	40.7	-2.8
Machine Tools, Metalworking, Molding and Rolling Mill Machinery	1,079.5	797.0	-26.2
Textile and Sewing Machinery	290.9	218.9	-24.8
Woodworking, Glassmaking and Plastic and Rubber Molding Machinery	423.4	333.8	-21.2
Pulp, Paper, Printing and Packaging Machinery	255.0	220.6	-13.5
Measuring, Testing and Control Instruments	385.6	351.6	-8.8
Materials Handling Equipment	349.0	242.3	-30.6
Photo and Service Industry Machinery	627.6	599.2	-4.5
Agricultural Machinery and Equipment	246.0	215.9	-12.2
Computers	303.7	238.2	-21.6
Computer Peripherals, Accessories and Parts	3,679.9	4,030.1	9.5
Semiconductors	2,010.6	1,665.0	-17.2
Telecommunications Equipment	2,491.0	2,035.1	-18.3
Other Office and Business Machines	1,196.1	1,186.0	-0.8
Scientific, Hospital and Medical Equipment	559.3	623.8	11.5
Transportation Equipment	425.6	350.7	-17.6
Parts for Civilian Aircraft	196.7	217.4	10.5
Marine Engines and Parts	100.5	69.7	-30.6
Automotive Vehicles, Parts and Engines	16,944.1	15,324.9	-9.6
Cars	9,910.5	9,247.9	-6.7
Trucks, Buses and Special Vehicles	1,623.4	945.9	-41.7
Automotive Engines and Engine Parts	1,623.6	1,271.1	-21.7
Automotive Tires and Tubes	422.8	392.6	-7.1
Other Automotive Parts and Accessories	3,318.1	3,417.8	3.0
Consumer Goods	5,997.3	5,694.3	-5.1
Manufactured Consumer Nondurables	746.8	635.6	-14.9
Textile Apparel and Household Goods	113.6	67.2	-40.8
Pharmaceutical Preparations	185.8	178.9	-3.7
Printed Material	82.5	76.9	-6.8
Manufactured Consumer Durables	5,211.7	5,024.1	-3.6
Glassware and Chinaware	122.3	121.7	-0.5
Cookware, Cutlery, House and Garden Wares and Tools	93.3	83.2	-10.8
Household and Kitchen Appliances	212.7	208.0	-2.2
Motorcycles and Parts	270.0	168.5	-37.6
Pleasure Boats and Motors	114.0	83.8	-26.5
Toys and Sporting Goods (incl. bicycles)	861.8	1,167.6	35.5
Photographic and Optical Equipment	330.6	293.7	-11.2
Musical Instruments and Other Recreational Equipment	190.6	149.7	-21.5
Television Sets and Other Video Equipment	1,504.2	1,292.9	-14.0
Radios, Stereo Equipment and Other Audio Equipment	1,060.9	997.1	-6.0
Jewelry and Watches	172.9	131.9	-23.7
Artworks and Antiques	37.3	67.1	79.9
Unmanufactured Consumer Goods	38.7	34.5	-10.9
Other Imports	452.1	600.0	32.7

Source: Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Japan Economic Institute.